

Message Text

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EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, SHUM, ID, PT, AS

SUBJECT: TIMOR

REF: A. STATE 67313,, B. STATE 66241

1. SUMMARY: I CONVEYED SUBSTANCE DEPARTMENT'S CONCERNS OVER INDONESIAN POLICIES TIMOR TO HIGHEST RANKING FONDEPT OFFICIAL IN JAKARTA MARCH 28. SIMILAR POINTS WILL BE CONVEYED TO GENERAL MURDANI AND, HOPEFULLY, TO MINISTER OF STATE SUDHARMONO. I AM CONCERNED GOI POLICY MAKERS WILL BE AWARE OUR INTEREST IN THEIR ACTIVITIES IN TIMOR WILL NOT END WITH PASSING OF DUNN HEARINGS. END SUMMARY.

2. I TOOK OPPORTUNITY OF PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED MARCH 28 CALL ON DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS DARUSMAN, WHO IS RUNNING FONDEPT WHILE MALIK IS CAMPAIGNING, TO RAISE POINTS TRANSMITTED REF A. AS PREFACE, I NOTED THAT, WHILE WE DID NOT EXPECT DUNN'S TESTIMONY IN ITSELF TO HAVE IMPORTANT ADVERSE IMPACT ON GOI-USG RELATIONS, SPOTLIGHT HAD BEEN TURNED ON TIMOR AND HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION THERE WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE

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SUBJECT OF FURTHER CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC INTEREST IN US. I STRESSED SIGNIFICANT STEPS USG HAD TAKEN (AS SUMMARIZED PARA 1 REF A) AND GAVE SUBSTANCE PARAGRAPHS 4, 5, 6 AND 7 WHILE DARUSMAN TOOK WRITTEN NOTES. IN SO DOING I STRESSED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER AND HIS ADMINISTRATION WERE PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE TO ISSUES RELATING TO HUMAN RIGHTS. IN ORDER KEEP EMPHASIS ON TIMOR, I DID NOT REFER TO PKI DETAINEES (PARA 8).

GOI WELL AWARE OUR INTEREST THIS AREA; WE WILL CONTINUE FIND OTHER OCCASIONS REMIND THEM OF THIS INTEREST.

3. TO SHOW NATURE OF CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST I ALSO PROVIDED DARUSMAN WITH COPY OF CORRESPONDENCE TRANSMITTED REF B. I ADDED THAT, SINCE CONGRESS HAD BEEN OFFICIALLY INFORMED OF US ACCEPTANCE OF INDONESIAN SOVEREIGNTY OVER TIMOR, WE WOULD BE REQUIRED TO ADDRESS SITUATION THERE IN FUTURE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS TO CONGRESS. WHILE SUCH INTEREST MIGHT SEEM TO SOME TO BORDER ON US INVOLVEMENT IN INDONESIAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS, I STRESSED THAT IT SHOULD BE PLACED IN CONTEXT OF STEPS NECESSARY TO CONTINUE MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN INDONESIA.

4. DARUSMAN OBSERVED THAT HIS REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON TENDED TO CONFIRM THAT DUNN HEARINGS ARE UNLIKELY TO HAVE IMMEDIATE ADVERSE EFFECT IN CONGRESS. GOI NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT DUNN PLANNED FURTHER ACTIVITIES INVOLVING US UNIVERSITIES AND PUBLIC MEDIA AS WELL AS TRIPS TO EUROPE, INCLUDING NETHERLANDS. GOI THEREFORE WAS RESERVING ITS JUDGEMENT AS TO FINAL IMPACT OF DUNN'S CAMPAIGN.

5. DARUSMAN INDICATED THAT GOI WISHED TO USE US STATEMENTS OF ACCEPTANCE OF INDONESIAN SOVEREIGNTY OVER TIMOR TO ENCOURAGE OTHER COUNTRIES TO TAKE SIMILAR ACTION. I CAUTIONED THAT NO MORE SHOULD BE READ INTO "ACCEPTANCE BY US" THAN THAT WORD IMPLIED. DARUSMAN SAID HE UNDERSTOOD.

6. DARUSMAN DID NOT COMMENT ON MY POINTS ON CURRENT HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN TIMOR, OTHER THAN TO SAY THAT HE HAD TAKEN
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NOTE OF MY OBSERVATIONS AND WOULD SEE THAT THEY REACHED APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES. HE THEN ASKED FOR MY VIEWS ON WHAT FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS MIGHT BE EXPECTED ON THIS ISSUE. I NOTED THAT CONGRESS COULD ASK THAT WE REVISE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED TO THEM TO INCLUDE MENTION OF TIMOR.

7. DARUSMAN ALSO ASKED WHETHER GOI SHOULD ANTICIPATE DISCUSSIONS WITH CODEL WOLFF ON TIMOR. I SAID THAT GOI COULD CERTAINLY ANTICIPATE QUESTIONS ALONG LINES CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST ALREADY SHOWN.

8. COMMENT: KEY DECISION MAKER ON TIMOR BELOW PRESIDENT IS GENERAL BENNY MURDANI. UNFORTUNATELY, HE IS AWAY ENTIRE WEEK IN BANGKOK. I AM ARRANGING, HOWEVER, TRANSMIT SUBSTANCE REFTEL TO HIM. I SHALL BE TRAVELLING WITH PRESIDENTIAL PARTY TO SULAWESI FOR INCO MINE OPENING MARCH 30-31 AND SHALL SEEK OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO MINISTER OF STATE SUDHARMONO ALONG SIMILAR LINES. I AM ALSO CERTAIN DARUSMAN WILL PASS ALONG HIS NOTES TO FOREIGN MINISTER AND, PROBABLY, OFFICIALS IN

DEFENSE DEPARTMENT.
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